

1 **SNAPSHOT MANAGEMENT**
2 **METHOD APPARATUS AND SYSTEM**
3 **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

4 Snapshot sets comprising snapshot criteria are created, maintained, and executed via a
5 command set designed to facilitate managing and conducting snapshots on data distributed
6 across multiple volumes. Snapshot criteria such as source volume, target volume,
7 redundancy level, copy mode, and the like are added as desired to a snapshot set. Upon
8 invocation of an execute command, the fast replication operations defined by the snapshot set
9 are executed, providing a logically atomic data replication utility potentially involving
10 multiple sources and targets. In one embodiment auto selection of a target may be specified,
11 thus facilitating over-subscription of target resources. The present invention reduces the
12 complexity of archiving data – particularly data distributed across multiple volumes such as
13 data associated with database applications and the like.

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